SATURDAY ..... November 9, 1901.

CROSBY S. NOYES ..... Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

D'In order to avoid delays on necount of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Depart-ments, according to tenor or purpose.

### Walting for the Decision.

The Schley inquiry is now before the The Star has treated it as a judicial proceeding of national importance, reporting it with conspicuous fuliness and accuracy, and printing each day through a special telephone service from the court room information concerning the proceedings up to the very verge of adjournment. The people of the city have thus been enabled to follow each evening the progress of the inquiry during the day.

For the very reason that the inquiry is essentially a judicial proceeding The Star has refrained from editorial comment intended to influence the court either for or against Admiral Schley. It has considered that the intense advocacy of a preconceived idea of the court's proper judgment in the matter, involving abuse of dissenting witand counsel, would be unfair to everybody concerned, and in effect contempt of court, no matter how much the insidious attempt impreperly to sway the judges might be disguised in words of flat-

In August before the court of inquiry began its sessions The Star said editorially: The issue to be tried before the naval court of inquiry is not whether Admiral Schley is a coward. No one appears to prosecute on such an accusation. The charge is not in the precept. The Maclay accusation has been vigorously repudiated by the Secretary of the Navy. The Naval Academy authorities have destroyed the illusion that an academy text book teaches cadets such libels upon American officers. The American people do not for an instant believe that Schley or any other admiral or any subordinate officer in the American or any subordinate one in the American navy is a coward. They really do not need the evidence of Cervera or any Spanish captain on this point. It is only the petty irresponsibles on both sides of the controversy who introduce into it the malignant libels upon the courage or manhood of the two admirals.

The inquiry will evidently deal with such questions as that of alleged insubordination on the part of Schley, in disobeying or saying that he must disobey orders, which circumstances demonstrated to be wise; and that of alleged inefficiency through errors of judgment in handling the flying squadron at Cienfuegos and Santiago; and the controversy over what occurred and was said on the bridge of the Brooklyn at the time of making the loop, involving a question of veracity or of memory. And incidentally on the other side renewed stress will be laid upon Admiral Sampson's absence with the New York from the scene of actual battle and upon his confessed!y tactless cablegram announcing the Santiago victory; and the facts will be developed which will indirectly sustain or discredit the soundness of his judgment and the wisdom of his acts as commander of the

The most unsatisfactory result of the investigation will be the conversion of the inquiry into a petty competition in scandalous defamation between American naval officers. It is hardly possible, however, that any clash of opinion between responsible men, thus contending in the open, can reproduce even faintly the venomous and cruel abuse which has been in the newspapers poured upon both Sampson and

if the results of the inquiry justify them in their present course of shutting their ears in disgust to the responsive chorus of vitriolic slander supplied by certain adherents of each admiral. They will be gratified if the fact is made plain to the world that the American navy is sound and efficient, not honeycombed either with cowards or backbiting, dishonest conspirators. They are not eager to have the Samp-sonites crush Schley or the Schleyites crush Sampson; for in the reciprocal crushing the American navy is sure to suffer more and more in popular respect and admiration. They will hope that the blunders or mislemeanors lastened upon any American officer in connection with the glorious cam-paign of our navy in the war with Spain may turn out to be few and venial, and that after due allowances are made for human infirmities both admirals, now under fire, and all American naval officers, may ever appear as brave sallors, capable commanders and good Americans

The Star entertains the same views at the end of the inquiry as at the beginning. It deprecates the venomous personal partisanship which has converted the Santiago naval operations from a national glory into al scandal. It deplores the perverted political ingenuity which has fostered this shameful transformation for base

It is admitted that there is no issue be fore the court of inquiry concerning Admiral Schley's personal courage, and no question as to its existence in fact. It is admitted that the accusations of malicious mutilation of records by the Navy Department to the injury of Admiral Schley have fallen to the ground. Thus the most offensive suggestions from the partisans on the two sides of the controversy have been

Concerning the matters directly before the court under the precept bearing upon Admiral Schley's conduct when in independent command of the flying squadron, The Star retains its original belief that it would have been better to view these preliminary and resultless acts as merged in, and, if characterized by any shortcomings, as compensated for by the glorious victory of Santiago in which the Brooklyn played so conus a part. But an exhaustive inquiry was asked for and granted; and the evidence is now before a court in whose fairness and sound judgment every one has confidence. The Star accepts in advance the finding of this court, in the certainty that it will be so framed as at the same time to do justice to Admiral Schley and to promote the discipline, development and general welfare of the American navy.

Mr. Carnegie declares that he is not in favor of an isthmian canal. The hope that he would take hold and dig the ditch at his own expense is thus rudely shattered.

# The Dinner in the Campaign.

Really, now, did the Booker Washington dinner cut the slightest figure in Tuesday's elections? We were solemnly assured that it would; that in every state where campaigns were in progress its effects would appear, and that in several states the republicans, as a penalty for the President's action, would be swept out of existence. But how stands the record?

Mr. Gorman claims the Maryland legislature, but as the result of what? Wholesale and unblushing skullduggery. An election law, designed in trickery and applied on Tuesday in dishonor, has enabled him so to confuse the situation that at the end of four days the official returns are not yet all in. The city of Baltimore again went republican, and there is no reason to doubt that a fair count outside the city would have piled the republican figures still higher. Evidently the people of Maryland were not violently agitated about the din-

The democratic-triumph in Kentucky cannot be attributed to the dinner. Whatever chance the republicans might have had

that some of them were not in the battle THE EVENING STAR. at all. A house divided against itself cannot stand, and should not stand. With some of the most capable and attractive men in the country in the ranks, the Kentucky republicans in too many instances have yet put forward men outside the list of these for recognition, and with a result both inevitable and deserved. The demo cratic leadership also was far from representing the best that party has to offer, but the party itself was united.

In Virginia was witnessed that amusing old game with which the country has grown familiar. The result was never for a moment in doubt. Mr. Montague received his certificate of election the day he was nominated. A republican nomination was not forbidden, but it signified nothing. Col. Hoge entertained large crowds, and enjoyed the occasions himself, but his defeat at the polls was a foregone conclusion. The majority against him was a little matter of thirty or forty thousand. The dinner was discussed with other things, but only as a matter of form. It was not needed in the business.

In Iowa, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, where was the dinner? If civilization had been at stake should we not have witnessed a rally for its preservation in those quarters? 'Aren't the good folk of those states alive to the pride or race, and to the protection of the mahogany?

No, the dinner, as a political issue, proved to be a flash in the pan-the frying pan. Those who attempted to use it were quietly but firmly rebuked.

### Congress and Reciprocity.

Suppose the democratic leaders in Con ress, after the party won its free trade victory in 1892, had, upon some investigation and reflection, decided not to attempt any tariff legislation at all. Suppose they had in substance announced: "We were entirely sincere in our campaign promises on the subject of the tariff. We did intend to put the knife to protection in vigorous fashion. But we find to our surprise and regret that some of our party friends are under the influence of the business interests, and are unwilling to aid us in the work that ought to be done. We may admit, moreover, that protection has a deeper root than we thought. Since, therefore, we cannot keep our word to the letter, we shall attempt no reduction of taxation until the situation is more promising from our point of view."

What would inevitably have been the effect of such an announcement? We know what the leaders did, and what the effect of that was. Finding that they had promised the impossible on the stump, and that it was not feasible, nor would it be wise, to bring in a free trade tariff bill, they twisted and evaded as well as they could, and finally brought in a bill which pleased The result was the sound drubbing of the democracy at the next congressional elections. Mr. McKinley's success followed in 1896. But had the party done nothing at all with the issue upon which it had gained power, would not defeat as certainly have followed, with disgrace

The republicans did not win last year's election on the reciprocity issue, but the party in its platform declared for reciprocity, and reciprocity treaties, negotiated by a special commissioner appointed by Mr. McKinley, were then in existence. And since that time Mr. McKinley had put reciprocity ahead of all other issues, and he died with an appeal for reciprocity on his lips. Moreover, Mr. Roosevelt has pledged himself to the general line of the McKinley policies, and for doing so has been applaud-

ed by the country. In the light of this, will the republican leaders in Congress put themselves in opsition to reciprocity? Will they declare such conventions impracticable? Will they plead that after conferring with the wool men, the sugar men, and the steel men. they find themselves unable to agree to any efforts of that kind to increase our foreign trade? Are last year's campaign declarations, Mr. McKinley's last speech and the widely recognized necessity for new markets for our rapidly increasing productions the democrats desire a better issue for next year's campaigns? Would they not be very likely to win with it? The republican party has no record for timidity or repudiation, and it had better not at this late day begin to make one.

# Li Hung Chang and Russia.

The story now comes from Pekin to the effect that Li Hung Chang's death was immediately caused by the excitement of a heated controversy with the Russian minister over the new Manchurlan treaty. According to the reports Russia was anxious for an immediate ratification without dis closure of the terms to the other powers. Japan, however, learned of the terms and objected strongly to them. Thereupon ensued an intrigue for the blocking of Russia's game, with the aged earl between the contending powers and the court. According to the latest understanding, the treaty is not yet signed and the case is open to the intervention of Japan and perhaps other The details of that fatal interview between Li Hung Chang and the Russian minister may never be known. It must have been of a violent nature, however, to cause the usually phlegmatic celestial to become so excited as to precipitate a hemorrhage. It is clear that the element of tragedy has not been exhausted from the Chinese situation.

General Funston has recovered from his attack of appendicitis and is coming home for a well-earned rest. The general will, after noting the fickleness of popular favor, very probably be willing to get on with a minimum allowance of ovation.

The meteor predictions are almost as unreliable as the weather prophecies; but they do not make so much difference.

Li Hung Chang's last hours were characteristic of his career. He died in a quarrel over international questions.

M. Santos-Dumont had almost as much trouble to collect the money as he did to get the balloon to work.

Senator Tillman declines to think before he speaks, and also to give the matter any subsequent attention.

Pat Crowe has retired to think of some new conditions to be complied with before

he will surrender.

# A Political Idyl.

In Tuesday's dispatches appeared the folowing under a Jackson, Miss., date line: "On the eve of the special election in-colving the offices of state treasurer and secretary of state there is absolutely no excitement and little interest existing. The campaign has been short and conducted chiefly by correspondence, the mails having been flooded for the last thirty days with circulars. The two candidates residing in Jackson have not been out of the

the accounts of the spirited campaigns that were conducted elsewhere! While Low and Jerome were on the jump for weeks in New York; while Gorman and Rasin were passing sleepless nights in Maryland devising schemes for confusing voters at the polls; while Hanna and Foraker were touring was hopelessly wrecked by internal dis- Ohio and testing their digestive organs sensions and bad management. Their with all sorts of fare-while candidates strong men were not in the forefront of the everywhere else were in a fever of anxiety

Could anything be more idyllic? Could anything more completely or entertainingly show the variety of our political life and

the possibilities of our institutions?

Is it too great a stretch of fancy to suppose that in a few years some such correspondence as this may pass in that state? "Dear Jack: As you are a close reader of the newspapers, you may know that I am a candidate, or rather the candidate, for Congress in this district. The committee named me. I didn't want the 'blarsted' office, but now that my head is out I must go through the motions. The nomination must be ratified at what we call the polls, and so I write to ask you to drum up a few of your neighbors on election day and ratify for your town. Don't forget. First Tuesday in November. So long."

A few days after election the writer of the foregoing receives the following reply: "Dear Ned: Congratulations on your success. I turned in a dozen or more votes for you, which I hope sufficed for this locality. Was unable to go to the polls myself, owing to a previous engagement. But I had only to explain to my neighbors that you were a friend of mine to enlist them in your behalf. Of course you'll stand for a second term, and then, old man, you must do the thing in the old style that we read about. Should enjoy above all things seeing you on the stump, hard pressed by some other fellow, and obliged to hustle for every vote you got."

But, as restful and idylfic as this sort of thing is, it would be better for Mississippi if there were two parties in the state, and if even now candidates for office were obliged to hustle for every vote they got.

Some insurance companies are now issuing policies to total abstainers as a separate class. Whether or not the total abstainer is likely to live longer or not is a matter still in debate. But there is not much doubt that, as a rule, he will average higher than the other people in keeping policies from lapsing, and this fact might make a difference to the disadvantage of the policy holders whose claims come to a final settlement.

A California florist has produced a daisy which measures a foot in circumference. If the daisy can be generally persuaded to thus concentrate itself instead of scattering its blossoms all over the ten-acre lot, the farm hands of the nation will rejoice.

ion between Mr. Hanna and President Roosevelt in the method of dealing with the trust question should occasion no surprise. It is a topic on which very few peo-Richard Croker says that when he goes

That there should be a difference of opin-

away from this country for a vacation, it is with the sanction of his party. Some day his party may see fit to extend him this sanction for keeps. It is to be hoped that a man of such classic features and such polished oratory

him to grow large whiskers and say Every time one metropolitan editor gets into trouble a large number of other metropolitan editors rejoice. There are bitter

rivalries in journalism as well as in com-

as Mr. Bryan will not let agriculture tempt

Unfortunately the Bulgarians do not trade with this country extensively enough to allow us to make up the ransom by re-

vising tariff rates affecting them. Any anarchist, if he happened to inherit a brewery, would demand all the protection that the government could afford.

# SHOOTING STARS.

Reciprocity. "Do you think your constituents will lend their indorsement to your course?" said the

"I never thought about it," answered Senator Sorghum. "But if my constituents will keep out o' debt and not ask me for indorsements I'll be willing to take chances on needing theirs."

The Various Divorce Laws. "Are you married or single?" asked the person who never hesitates to ask ques-

"It all depends." answered the man with the worried look, "on which state of the Union I happen to be living in.'

# A Hand Game.

Although in an unselfish tone Men preach the golden rule anew. Each always tries to keep his own And get the other fellow's, too.

Both Sides of the Transaction. "My father is a broker," said one little girl. "What's yours?"

"He's one of the people who get broke," answered the other. His Criticism.

# "What do you think of our new oll paint-

ng?" asked Mrs. Cumrox. "Well." answered Mr. Cumrox. "It looks right good from the front, but if you turn it around and look at the other side I must say the material seems kind o

A Test of Patience. Perhaps in that millennial time Which nations all await

We'll bid farewell to every ill And feel no fears of fate.

Your collar buttons won't get lost, Your trousers will not bag; The motorman will always stop

Whene'er a car you flag. Your shoe soles never will get thin, Your buttons won't come off, Your friends will always throw bouquets And never stop to scoff.

It makes us smile whene'er we think Of all this comfort great-And yet the solemn thought occurs: It's very long to wait.

With every vestige of leadership wiped away, with the animosities of previous campaigns relegated to the rear, with old questions laid aside, the people are free for new alignments, upon issues such as have been suggested. A clear field and an unclouded future opens the way for the democracy of the country to pull together again. The issues of 1904 should be those of the day, having for their purpose the reform of abuses as well as the elevation of our national prestige. The Constitution sees our national prestige. The Constitution sees hope in the situation.

#### Reform From the Baltimore American

A western city has started a tremendous reform. It is nothing more or less than the compulsory elocutionary education of the telephone girls. They are to take lesspeeches.

"The candidates do not expect that a half vote will be polled at many precincts, and it is said that no election will be held at many places. The weather is all that could be desired, being clear and cold, with indications of frost tomorrow."

How restful the reading of this is after

# Sit Down.

The intimation to Mr. Bryan is unmis-takable. He is admonished to place him-self a considerable distance in the rear and comply with the customary requirement.

#### Philadelphia. From the Brooklyn Citizen.

Civic virtue is not an estimable quantity in Pennsylvania. Philazelphia is still un-1 non-28d 413 10th St. N.W.

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